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44

NEWSLETTER

Society for the Psychological Study
of Lesbian and Gay Issues

Society for the Psychological Study
of Lesbian and Gay Issues
A DIVISION OF THE
AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Volume 5, Number 3

December, 1989

SPSLGI CONVENTION PROGRAMMING A SUCCESS

Division 44 sponsored a diverse and rich array of programming at the APA Convention in New Orleans last August. Six symposia, three conversation hours; four paper sessions; six poster sessions; and two invited addresses were offered. In addition SPSLGI co-sponsored three social hours and conducted two business meetings of the division's Executive Committee.

Programming was designed to reflect Division 44's commitment to parity in the coverage of lesbian and gay issues; to examine clinical, research, and theoretical perspectives in lesbian and gay populations; to advocate social activism to eradicate homophobia; to investigate ethnic/minority concerns vis a vis lesbians and gays; to present current updates on AIDS; and to explore the unique needs and contributions of gay men and women living in diverse regions of the country.

The following are a few of Convention 89's highlights:

Invited Addresses. April Martin, Ph.D., presented the *Planned Lesbian and Gay Family: Parenthood and Children*. In a moving and informative address, Dr. Martin discussed her personal experience raising two children with her lover and offered perspectives on the research possibilities such "Mommy-Mommy" families can offer developmental psychology. (See related article in this newsletter on page 6.)

Karen Thompson spoke on *Homophobia, Handicappism, and Sexism: The Struggle Continues for Sharon Kowalski*. Ms. Thompson gave a stirring, personal account of her struggle to obtain visitation rights and appropriate rehabilitation therapy for her lover, Sharon Kowalski, who suffered brain damage in an automobile accident.

Symposia. This year's symposia covered the issues of gender role concepts (*Social Constructionism and the Psychology of Sexuality and Identity*); various issues related to AIDS (*AIDS: Sexual Politics, and the Sexual Landscape; Gay Identity and Community Cohesion: Coping Resources for AIDS; Special Issues in AIDS: Hispanic Education*

and Long Term Compliance; and Psychotherapy and AIDS: Clinical, Ethical, and Practical Considerations.); and, the affect regionality has on gay and lesbian community cohesion [*Regionality of Gay and Lesbian Communities: Strategies from the South* (See related article on page 19.)

Conversation Hours. SPSLGI once again sponsored an open forum at which interested individuals could discuss ethnic/minority identity and its relationship to gay and lesbian identity. *Forging Alliances III: Ethnic Minority Issues* allowed individuals to discuss ways in which Division 44 can better serve the needs of gays and lesbians who are also members of an ethnic/racial minority.

Presidential Address. This year's Presidential Address was originally to be presented by Alan Malyon, Ph.D. Unfortunately, Dr. Malyon died this year, preventing him from serving his term as President of Division 44. In his memory the hour of Convention time devoted to the Presidential Address was set aside as a memorial.

Dr. Malyon's vital work that led to the removal of homosexuality as a classification of pathology in DSM III-R; his tireless efforts to see SPSLGI established as an APA division; his laudatory work as a researcher, a clinician, and a seminal thinker on gay and lesbian issues; and, his invaluable presence as a warm, caring person were honored by those who knew him.

Special thanks are extended to Jeffrey Rehm, Ph.D., 1989's Convention Program Chair for coordinating SPSLGI's programming. His long hours of conscientious work are responsible for Division 44's outstanding programming at Convention 89.

Now, it's on to Boston in 1990. Individuals interested in working on SPSLGI's programming for 1990's Convention can contact Carol S. Becker, 1990's Convention Chair, at:

Department of Human Development
California State University, Hayward
Hayward, CA 94542
(415) 881-3076 or (415) 339-8356.

President's Column

by Adrienne Smith, Ph.D.

What a time we all had in New Orleans! Great food, great fun, great parties. In addition to joy and fun we also shared a moving experience of loss and sorrow in the memorial for Alan Malyon and the others we have lost in the past year. And we celebrated growth and achievement with Karen Thompson in her fight to establish rights for her relationship with Sharon Kowalski and ultimately for all of us and with April Martin as she and her lover establish a new kind of family where each child has two Mommies.

We also rejoiced with Division 44 members who have been honored within psychology. Steve Morin, our first President, has been elected to the APA Board of Directors. Our immediate Past President, Laura Brown, received the CLGC Leadership Citation. John Gonsiorek and Harold Kooden were elected Fellows of APA through Division 44 and Oliva Espin, already a Fellow through another division, became and "Old" Fellow of Division 44. They join a distinguished list of 16 Fellows of our division. In addition to honors within our own division, several of our members are Presidents of other divisions; Florence Denmark of Division 1, Lenore Walker of Division 35, and Steve Heyman of Division 47. If those of you reading this column know of other Division 44 members, including yourself, who have been honored in any way please let me know so they can also be recognized.

Not only are our members active throughout APA but within our own division there is growing interest in and willingness to serve in some involved capacity. In this newsletter and in subsequent issues you will find brief descriptions of the offices, committees and liaison positions various people have taken on. Some of these volunteers need help. Here is your chance to become more involved in the workings of your division! As someone who has been involved in Division 44 governance from its founding, let me share with you how exhilarating that is. (By the way, while I was looking up "exhilarating" to check its spelling I noticed that the first definition in my 1973 Webster's is "to make lively and gay".) Being active in Division 44 has certainly added to my liveliness and enhanced my

(continued on page 13, *President's Column*)

SPSLGI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT Adrienne Smith, Ph.D., 1641 West Irving Park, Chicago, IL 60613

PRESIDENT ELECT Jeffrey Rehm, Ph.D. P.O. Box 8422, Orange, CA 92664

PAST PRESIDENT/FELLOWS CHAIR/NOMINATIONS CHAIR Laura S. Brown, Ph.D., 4527 First Ave., NE Seattle, WA 98105

SECRETARY-TREASURER Terry Gock, Ph.D., 2550 W. Main St., Suite 201, Alhambra, CA 91801

REPRESENTATIVE TO APA COUNCIL Oliva Espin, Ph.D., 19 Burroughs St., #2, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

CHAIR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE Christine Browning, Ph.D., Counseling Center, University of California, Irvine, CA 92717

CHAIR PROGRAM COMMITTEE 1990 Carol Becker, Ph.D., 6471 Heather Ridge Way, Oakland, CA 94611

CHAIR TF ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING Leah Fygetakis, Ph.D., The Counseling Center, King Center, Boston University, 19 Deerfield St., Boston, MA 02215

CHAIR TF ON ETHNIC/RACIAL MINORITY ISSUES Connie Chan, Ph.D., CPCS-Downtown, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA 02125

CO-CHAIRS DIVISION 44 ANNUAL John Gonsiorek, Ph.D.; Beverly Greene, Ph.D., 26 St. Johns Pl., 3rd Fl., Brooklyn, NY 11217

CO-CHAIRS STUDENT AFFILIATE Michael Keren, 292 Barrow St., #4, Jersey City, NJ 07302; Claudia Mosier, 628 W. Patterson, Chicago, IL 60613

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Dee Bridgewater, Ph.D., 9033 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 406, Beverly Hills, CA 90211

Individuals interested in serving on Division 44's Executive Committee can contact:

*Adrienne Smith
1641 West Irving Park
Chicago, IL 60613
(312) 525-6222*

EC Creates Student Representative Position

Division 44 has established the post of Student Representative to SPSLGI's Executive Committee. The purpose of this post is to:

- 1) discover ways that Division 44 can be more responsive to the needs of graduate students
- 2) establish methods of fulfilling these needs
- 3) to provide a contact person for graduate students who want more information about the division and who wish to convey input to the Executive Committee.

Division 44's first Student Representatives are Michael Keren and Claudia Mosier. As they are the first to occupy this newly designated position, they have had the opportunity to write their own job description:

"We want to find how Division 44 can be helpful, useful and supportive to graduate students. Any ideas anyone has to achieve that goal would be greatly appreciated. Please contact us if you can think of ways Division 44 can be responsive to graduate student needs. If you would like some ideas

for developing lesbian and gay networks at your school drop us a line.

We are looking forward to hearing from other graduate students. We found it exciting to be at the APA Convention and to be involved in working with gay and lesbian psychologists."

Graduate students are encouraged to contact these representatives at the addresses listed below:

*Michael Keren
292 Barrow St. #4
Jersey City, NJ 07302
(201) 433-9580*

*Claudia Mosier
628 W. Patterson
Chicago, IL 60657
(312) 327-7277*

PSYCHOLOGIST POSITIONS

Two (2) psychologist positions are available at a comprehensive university counseling center with provisionally accredited APA internship. Responsibilities include counseling, crisis intervention, training, developmental programming, and consultation. Doctorate, predoctoral internship, and eligibility for licensure as a psychologist required. Preference will be given to candidates with expertise in at least two of the following areas: service to gay/lesbian population, minority concerns, sport psychology, career, assessment, group, substance abuse, consultation. Deadline: February 1, 1990.

Send letter specifying qualifications and areas of expertise, vita, and three (3) current letters of reference to :

**Kathy Hotelling, Ph.D.
Counseling and Student Development Center
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2854
(NIU is an EEO/AA Employer.)**

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the years 1991-1996. Contact: *Donald J. Foss; Department of Psychology; Mezes Hall 330; The University of Texas at Austin; Austin, Texas 78712.*

AIDS

Undergraduate courses on AIDS--Information/Idea Exchange. Dr. Steven R. Heyman, an Associate Professor at the University of Wyoming, will be offering a seminar on *The Psychosocial Implication of AIDS* in the Spring, 1990 semester. He would like to exchange syllabi, ideas, etc., with other individuals who have developed or might be developing such courses. Please contact: *Steven R. Heyman, Ph.D.; Department of Psychology; University of Wyoming; P.O. Box 3415 University Station; Laramie, WY 82071; (307) 766-6718/6303.*

AIDS bibliography available. *AIDS: Abstracts of the Psychological and Behavioral Literature, 1983-1989, Second Edition* includes some 700 references (most with abstracts of books, chapters, and journal articles) which is available from APA. To order, contact: *The APA Order Department; PO Box 2710; Hyattsville, MD 20784; (703) 247-7705.*

National AIDS Information Clearinghouse. This centralized source for comprehensive information about HIV/AIDS programs, materials, and services can be contacted through a new toll free number: *1-800-458-5231.*

AIDS among Native Americans. The National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC) has produced a number of educational materials related to HIV infection among Native American populations. For information contact: *NNAAPC; 6239 College Ave.; Suite 201; Oakland, CA 94618; (415) 658-2051.*

Nominations

Awards for excellence in consultation. The Division of Consulting Psychology will present two awards for excellence in consultation at the 1990 APA Convention in Boston. The *Perry L. Rohrer Award* is given annually to an APA member whose career achievements reflect outstanding service to organizations by helping them respond more effectively to human needs. The *National Psychological Consultants to Management Award* is given annually

to an APA member whose work has had a significant positive impact on an organization and/or has enhanced our knowledge and utilization of the consulting process. Submissions must be made by March 31, 1990. Contact: *David Munz; Department of Psychology; St. Louis University; 221 North Grand Boulevard; St. Louis, MO 63103;*

William James Award. The Division of General Psychology of APA has opened nominations for the fifth annual William James Award. The Award is given for a submitted work published within the past five years that best serves to provide an integration of the diverse subfields of psychology. For further information contact: *William James Award; Department of Psychology; George Mason University; Fairfax, Virginia 22030.*

APA's Committee on Scientific Awards. Nominations for three awards have been opened by the Committee on Scientific Awards: The Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award; The Distinguished Scientific Award for the Application of Psychology; and The Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contribution to Psychology. The deadline for all awards is February 1, 1990. For further information contact: *Ms. Suzanne S. Wandersman; Science Directorate; APA; 1200 17th St, N.W.; Washington, D.C. 20036; (202) 955-7653.*

Miscellaneous

Members of underrepresented groups: reviewers for journal manuscripts wanted. The APA Publications and Communications Board invites the participation of individuals interested in reviewing manuscripts for APA journals. The Board is particularly interested in those who are members of underrepresented groups. For further information contact: *Leslie Cameron, Journals Office; APA; 1400 N. Uhle Street; Arlington, Virginia 22201.*

Legal briefs. Joseph Steffan and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund are looking for a retired high-ranking naval officer to submit an affidavit testifying to feasibility and effective services of lesbians and gay men in the armed forces. This affidavit would be used in support of Mr. Steffan's case against the navy for his discharge on the grounds he is gay. If you, or anyone you know, can provide such testimony, contact *Lambda Staff Attorney Sandra Lowe; LLDEF; 666 Broadway; New York, NY 10012; (212) 995-8585.*

THE PLANNED LESBIAN AND GAY FAMILY: PARENTHOOD AND CHILDREN

by April Martin, Ph.D.

The following article consists of an excerpt of a SPSLGI Invited Address at APA's Convention in New Orleans last August. The address, entitled *The Planned Lesbian and Gay Family: Parenthood and Children*, was presented by April Martin, Ph.D.

What has become clear is that the 1980's have witnessed the emergence of an entirely new family structure, unparalleled in human history. For the first time ever in any society we know about, gay people in large numbers are setting out consciously, deliberately, proudly, openly, to bear or adopt children. We are raising a crop of lavender-diaper babies. The implications of this are many and fascinating, and liable to effect changes in the way we conceptualize family structures and psychological development in general.

So, what I'd like to do here today is twofold. First, I'd like to tell you a little about the family my lover and I created, and use that as a jumping off point to address some of the questions that people generally raise. Second, what I'd like to do is step back a bit from the day to day concerns of lesbian and gay parenting, and comment on what I think may be some of the implications of this most extraordinary social phenomenon.

My own story began about eleven years ago, when my lover, Susan, and I decided to pursue having children. We spent the next two years researching everything we could find about lesbian parenthood and artificial insemination, though there wasn't much to be found. We also spent that time talking over all the details of our thoughts and feelings with each other, with friends, with our therapists, and with family. We made a couple of choices that I want to discuss.

One was that we decided to have artificial insemination done by a physician who obtained fresh semen through a pool of anonymous donors. There are many ways that lesbians can get pregnant, and our choice reflects only one way. Some women choose to have sex with a man they know and care for to become pregnant. This has the potential advantage of a close and loving bond with a biological father, as well as the attendant risks of having a father in the picture. Some women choose to have sex with a man they don't know and will never see again. This offers

protection against a potentially unwanted intrusion from a biological father, but still has drawbacks that made it unappealing to us. For one thing, we have a commitment to monogamy, and felt we did not want to introduce a sexual relationship with a man into the dynamics.

Our choice to use completely anonymous donors stemmed from our vision of ourselves as a two-parent family. We were frightened about what could happen if someone else were known to have biological ties, and therefore legal rights to our children. We never for a moment felt we wanted to have someone else in the picture. Even psychologically, we wanted it clear that we were our children's only parents. While we agreed that our children would be deprived of the advantage of someday knowing their genetic roots, we felt it to be a worthwhile tradeoff to the threat of custody suits or even visitation rights to someone we didn't want in our family. Obviously, there is no right or wrong to this, and women must make choices based on their own visions. In many years of talking with lesbians planning families, through, I have heard some women unaware of the risks of using known donors.

Many women, and many gay men who create families, choose to adopt children instead of conceive them. The reasons for one choice or another are usually very complex and multidetermined and extremely personal. For male couples who want to be primary parents, adoption is obviously the most feasible route. Some women choose adoption because they are unable to conceive or uninterested in being pregnant. Many couples feel an adopted child will belong to both parents equally, whereas a biological child is usually only genetically related to one of them. Many people have strong personal or political feelings about adoption in general. Whatever the reason, adoption raises additional questions. Should it be done through a state or private agency? Should it be a private adoption done through a lawyer? Should it be a child from a foreign country? Should it be a newborn or an older child? What are the couple's feelings about children from different races or ethnic backgrounds? Which one of the couple will be the parent of record for the adoption, and what will they say to authorities about the role of the other parent? Will an attempt be made to

(continued on page 16, *Lesbian Families*)

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CENTRAL REPORT

The following article was synthesized from materials presented by Clinton Anderson and William Bailey, officers of APA's Public Interest Directorate, to SPSLGI's Executive Committee at APA's Convention in New Orleans and from publications of the Public Directorate.

Child Custody for Lesbian Mothers. Lesbian mothers often lose custody of their children because judges presume that lesbian mothers' custody is not in the best interest of their children because lesbians are sexually promiscuous, maladjusted and inappropriate, because having a lesbian mother will cause a child to become homosexual or to confuse the child's sex-role identity, and because a lesbian mother creates a damaging social stigma for her child. Not surprisingly the research on lesbian mothers indicates that the presumptions many judges have about lesbians are not correct.

CLGC and CWP are engaged in a project intended to bring information about this research literature on lesbian mothers to the population of psychologists who might serve as expert witnesses or be involved in family court evaluations of children's best interest. From a review of literature currently being conducted by Linda Garnets, Christine Browning and Sheryl Gallant, a pamphlet will be developed by Lynne Bravo Rosewater and Connie Chan for psychologists who are involved in such custody case evaluations.

In addition, training materials and a continuing education workshop on custody case testifying are in the works; a network of persons who might be interested in giving such testimony will be developed; and a 1990 Convention program has been recommended to Division 44.

NIMH Research Workshop on Violence Toward Lesbians and Gay Men. *Mental Health Aspects of Violence Toward Lesbians and Gay Men: Research Issues and Directions* was the subject of a research workshop sponsored by the Antisocial and Violent Behavior Branch of the National Institute of Mental Health, June 27-28, 1989. According to Eford Voit, Assistant Branch Chief, the intention of the workshop was "to critically review the current state of knowledge on anti-gay violence, identify major knowledge gaps and related salient conceptual and/or methodological issues, and establish priorities for future research." Six principal topics were addressed: conceptual issues; psychological, social and cultural contexts of

anti-gay violence; extent and scope; risk factors; mental health reactions and consequences; and treatment and service interventions for victims. NIMH hopes to publish the proceedings early next year, either as an NIMH monograph or in a widely circulated scientific journal.

Lambda Amicus Briefs Requests. APA has recently received a request from Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund to file an amicus in two state court cases involving lesbian couples and the visitation and custody rights of the nonbiological mother of children reared by both women. For budgetary reasons and because of the murkiness of the issues on the importance of joint custody, APA has decided not to file amicus in the cases, but is trying to assist Lambda in other ways.

Hate Crimes Statistics Act. Senator Paul Simon and Representative John Conyers introduced their respective versions of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act on February 21 and both versions have now been reported out of their respective Judiciary Committees. Please contact your Senators and Representatives to request their co-sponsorship of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act and your opposition to any amendment to delete or weaken its inclusion of sexual orientation.

Civil Rights Amendment Act of 1989 (S. 47 and H.R. 655). The gay rights bills have been introduced in the Congress with 61 original co-sponsors in the House, up from 50 last Congress, and with 7 original co-sponsors in the Senate, up from 5 last Congress. Please write your Representatives and Senators to ask them to co-sponsor the bills. They are a long way from passage or even getting a hearing in subcommittee but the more co-sponsors they have the better the chances for future action.

Survey of Human Sexuality. Since the turn of the year, APA has been actively supporting plans to conduct a pre-test of a survey of human sexual behavior sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Due to recent adverse action in the U.S. House of Representatives, APA is mounting an aggressive grassroots campaign to try to protect the survey. Three years ago the National Academy of Sciences in its landmark report, *Confronting AIDS*, recommended that the National Institutes of Health support a major national study of sexual behavior.

(continued on page 14, *APA Report*)

CONVENTION 1990

Start thinking about submitting a symposium, paper, or poster session to Division 44's Program Committee for the 1990 APA Convention in Boston (August 10-14). The theme for our first Convention in the 1990's will be *On the Cutting Edge: Innovative Theory, Research, and Practice Concerning Lesbian and Gay Issues in Psychology*. Hopefully this theme will enable us to review the progress made in furthering psychological understandings of gay and lesbian issues, and help us clarify our goals for future work.

If you would like to talk about an idea, get information on submitting a proposal, or find other people with whom you could submit a symposium, contact:

Carol S. Becker, Ph.D.; Department of Human Development; California State University, Hayward; Hayward, CA 94542; (415) 881-3076 or (415) 339-8356.

Newsletter Editor Sought

Division 44 is currently receiving applications for the editorship of SPSLGI's divisional newsletter. Perspective editors would be responsible for the compiling and preparation of materials for three annual newsletter issues. Word processing skills are required.

Tenure of the new editor would begin with the post-Convention newsletter issue of next year (November, 1990).

Interested parties can contact:

*Dee Bridgewater, Ph.D.
9033 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 406
Beverly Hills, CA 90211*

(213) 392-1504.

Membership in Division 44

All social scientists with interests in applying psychological knowledge to the study of lesbian and gay issues are warmly welcomed as members, irrespective of personal sexual/affectional orientation. New members are elected formally once a year in early Fall. However, they are placed on the mailing list immediately if qualified for membership and if dues are paid. The five classes of membership in the division at this time are Fellows, Members, Associates, Affiliates and Student Affiliates. Affiliate members of the division are either students or non-students. Affiliates can hold membership in the APA or be non-members. Names of Affiliate members are not published in the APA Register and are kept strictly confidential.

Membership Application: SPSLGI - APA Division 44

Name _____ Date _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Office Phone (____) _____ Home Phone (____) _____
Education/Highest Degree _____ Date _____ Institution _____
Major Field of Study _____
Professional Affiliation _____
Present Position (Title) _____

APA Membership Status: (Circle One) Fellow Member Associate Student None

Application for Divison 44 Membership as (Circle One) Fellow Member Associate Affiliate Student Affiliate Newsletter Only
Please make check for 1989 Membership Dues or Newsletter subscription of \$20.00/\$10.00 for students (US currency only, please) payable to SPSLGI, and return check along with this application form to:

Christine Browning, Ph.D.
Counseling Center SS 1, Room 202
University of California
Irvine, CA 92717

DIVISION 44 FELLOWS

Members of Division 44 who have made "unusual and outstanding contributions" to science, practice, or leadership in lesbian and gay issues in psychology are encouraged to apply for the status of Fellow of APA through Division 44. Fellow status is awarded by APA to honor important and valuable contributions in particular areas of psychology. Division 44 sponsors those of its members whose work has been in the field of lesbian and gay issues.

Fellow status usually follows upon national impact and visibility in your field, and may result from excellence in a combination of factors as well (for example, both leadership and scholarship).

Fellow applicants must be five years post-doctorate. However, our experience with APA's Membership Committee, which makes the final recommendations from materials submitted by divisions, is that it may be best to wait a few years past the minimum before applying.

Additionally, members of the Division who are already Fellows of APA, and interested in becoming Fellows of Division 44, are encouraged to consider submitting their names for consideration.

The process of completing a Fellows application, particularly for initial consideration, can be lengthy, so you are encouraged to indicate your interest early, as completed applications will be due by March 1, 1990. To obtain information about applying for Fellow status in the Division, write to or call: *Laura S. Brown, Ph.D.; Division 44 Fellows Chair; 4527 First Ave., NE; Seattle WA 98105*

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Interested parties are invited to submit copy to Division 44's Newsletter. Newsletter deadlines are June 1; October; and February 1 of each year. For additional information and to make submissions contact:

*Dee Bridgewater, Ph.D.
9033 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 406
Beverly Hills, CA 90211
(213) 392-1504*

SPSLGI JOURNAL PROPOSED

At APA, New Orleans, the Executive Committee of Division 44 gave final approval for a Division 44 annual publication. The coeditors of this publication will be John Gonsiorek and Beverly Green. After considering a number of publication options, Division 44 authorized the coeditors to finalize negotiations with Sage Publications to publish this annual. Sage has expressed a strong interest in being the publisher and negotiations are currently under way.

The initial plan is to publish a yearly annual volume focusing on gay and lesbian issues in psychology. This annual volume will be published for five consecutive years. At the end of that time period a decision will be made whether there is sufficient interest and market to warrant moving this publication to a journal with a four times a year publication schedule. Current plans call for an early 1992 publication date of the first volume. Of those first five volumes, some will be devoted to particular topics or areas and others will be general. The coeditors would like to invite all members of Division 44 and other interested parties to consider submitting manuscripts. An official call for papers will be issued at the end of 1989 or early 1990. In the meantime, they would like to strongly encourage Division 44 members to consider possible articles for publication.

Please feel free to contact the coeditors with inquiries, ideas, suggestions, etc. We are interested not only in articles you may wish to write but in suggestions you may have for us approaching other people to write articles on certain topics. We would like to actively encourage members of Division 44 to participate in this important publication. The addresses of the coeditors are listed below.

*John C. Gonsiorek, Ph.D.
Physicians and Surgeons Bldg.
Room 506
63 S. 9th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 332-5068*

*Beverly Greene, Ph.D.
26 St. Johns Place
3rd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11217
(718) 735-3830*

APA Audiocassettes Available

The American Psychological Association sponsored the taping of selected presentations at its latest Convention held in New Orleans. Listed below are recorded sessions of interest to psychologists working in the area of lesbian and gay studies; order form numbers are provided for each cassette.

The Planned Gay and Lesbian Family: Parenthood and Children--April Martin (APA 89-041)

Social Constructionism and the Psychology of Sexuality and Identity--Michael D. Siever, Judith M. Glassgold & Lenore Tiefer (APA 89-062)

Tribute to Alan Malyon--Adrienne Smith, SPSLGI Presidential Address (APA 89-078)

Homophobia, Handicappism and Sexism: The Struggle Continues for Sharon Kowalski--Karen Thompson (APA 89-133)

Illness, Stigma and AIDS--Gregory M. Herek (APA 89-135)

To receive a catalogue of all available presentations and/or to place orders contact:

*Sound Imaghes, Inc.
Box 460519
Aurora, Colorado 80015
(303) 693-5511*

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Division 44's Executive Committee has established the following advertising policy and advertising rates for the divisional Newsletter.

Advertising Policy: The publication of any advertisement in the Division 44 Newsletter is not an endorsement of the advertiser or of the products or services advertised. Division 44 reserves the right unilaterally to reject, omit, or cancel advertising for any reason. Advertisements that unfairly discriminate against any group or individual will not be accepted.

Advertising Rates: (For camera-ready copy)

1/8 page	\$35.00 per issue
1/4 page	\$75.00 per issue
1/2 page	\$150.00 per issue
Whole page	\$300.00 per issue

Enclosures: \$300 per issue plus any additional postage incurred by the Division to mail the enclosure.

Classified ads (positions offered/wanted; re-location of offices; publication announcements, etc.) will be calculated according to the listed rate structure.

If you have advertisements you feel would be appropriate to the Newsletter's readership of mental health professionals interested in lesbian and gay issues, mail submissions to:

*Dee Bridgewater, Ph.D.
9033 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 406
Beverly Hills, CA 90211*

VOTE ON BY-LAW AMENDMENTS INVALID

In the April, 1989 edition of Division 44's Newsletter, SPSLGI members were asked to vote on two proposed amendments to the division's by-laws. Due to problems in the polling procedure, the results from this vote have been rendered invalid.

The proposed by-law amendments were formulated by SPSLGI's Executive Committee at their Mid-Winter Meeting in February, 1989. The first proposed amendment (Article III, No. 4) established that ". . . the minimal acceptable percentage of people of color among the elected membership of the Executive Committee shall be no less than 25% at any time." The second proposed amendment (Article III, No. 5) established that: "There shall be gender parity among the elected officials of Division 44's Executive Committee."

Division 44's Executive Committee is committed to creating a governance structure that is ethnically diverse and that maintains gender parity. It was in this spirit that the proposed by-law amendments were generated. SPSLGI members will have the opportunity to vote on these by-law amendments at some future, unspecified time through a polling procedure that will insure valid results.

SPSLGI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTARY

In an effort to aid SPSLGI members in understanding the functions of different Division 44 Executive Committee positions and the individuals who fill these posts, various EC members were asked to write a description of their positions on the EC and tell a bit about themselves. The following article provides the above information on five EC members and how to contact them for further information.

Jeffrey Rehm, Ph.D., President-Elect. In the past, I have served as Division 44's Program Chair. The job was quite challenging but also very rewarding. I made contact with many dedicated and talented people who made the 1989 New Orleans Convention a success. The Convention this year in Boston should be a great one. I urge everyone to give Carol Becker, this year's program chair, their support.

The job of president-elect is basically a training position in preparation for the presidency. The responsibilities include keeping in close contact with the president to learn the ropes, so to speak, and carry out tasks to help the president.

Another role of President-Elect is to take on special projects as they present themselves. One project I am interested in pursuing is organizing a mid-winter meeting for Division 44. Other divisions such as Division 29 have mid-winter meetings in places such as Palm Springs or Mexico City, sometimes with other divisions. The purpose of these meetings is to provide symposia of special interest to their memberships. I would welcome any ideas or suggestions as to having such a meeting. You can contact me by writing and/or calling: *Jeffrey Rehm, Ph.D.; PO Box 84222; Orange, CA 92664; (714) 634-5942.*

Oliva M. Espin, Ph.D., Representative to APA's Council of Representatives. The role of representative to APA's Council is a complex one. I represent the interests of Division 44 by expressing viewpoints; proposing resolutions and motions; and voting. I must also inform the division's executive committee about actions that have been taken by the Council, e.g., motions that have passed.

Presently I am Division 44's only representative on Council. Hopefully, in the future, Division 44 will have two or more representatives. This can be

accomplished by a greater percentage of balloting votes being allocated to Division 44 in the annual poll of APA members.

If you have any questions about Council or suggestions on agenda to be raised in Council please contact me at: *Oliva Espin, Ph.D.; 19 Burroughs St.; Apt. 2; Jamaica Plain, MA 02130; (617) 381-3244.*

Sari H. Dworkin, Ph.D., Member-at-Large, Chair of Continuing Education Committee. I have taken office as Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee. My role in this capacity is to serve on committees and task forces designated to accomplish the work of Division 44.

I am also the new chair of the Continuing Education Committee. Last year was Division 44's first CE program at Convention. It was highly successful. I am sure with the help of Division 44's membership our CE programming for next year's Convention will be too. I need ideas for topics and workshops. I can be reached at: *Sari H. Dworkin, Ph.D.; Advanced Studies Dept.; California State University-Fresno; Fresno, CA 93740-0003; (209) 294-2172 or 2271.*

Martha Pearse, Ph.D., Liaison to Division 35, Representative to APA Committee on Women in Psychology Network. Both of my positions are liaisons with major women's groups in APA. Division 35 is the division on psychology and women. CWP is the arm of the APA Women's Programs office. It is my charge to attend meetings of these two organizations, providing pertinent information about Division 44 to these groups; and then, reporting to Division 44's Executive Committee on developments in Division 35 and CWP. I am interested in receiving information from Division 44 members on issues and concerns they would like to see addressed in Division 35 and/or CWP. Please contact me at: *Martha Pearse, Ph.D.; 425 S. Cherry St.; Suite 350; Denver, Colorado 80222; (303) 377-1188.*

Harold Kooden, Liaison to the International Lesbian and Gay Association, Liaison to the Committee on International Relations in Psychology. I am liaison to the International Lesbian and Gay Association and have

(Continued on page 15, *Committee Reports*)



Society for the Psychological Study
of Lesbian and Gay Issues

Address Correspondence To:

1641 West Irving Park Road
Chicago, IL 60613

October 1, 1989

Dear Division 44 Member:

As president of Division 44 I am writing to inform you of SPSLGI's current financial crunch. I am proud of the fact that we have never been in debt as a division, but our tight budget means we have no money for extraordinary expenses. Recent events highlighted this problem.

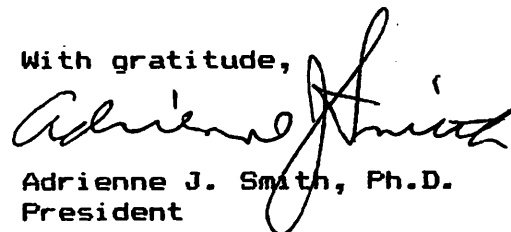
This year at the APA Convention, Division 44 had an outstanding keynote speaker in Karen Thompson. We were able to raise the money to cover her expenses but we are at least \$500.00 short of the honorarium we promised her. Clearly, we need to raise the additional \$500.00. But, beyond the immediate need, it would be wonderful to have a source of money which we could use exclusively for causes, such as Karen, Perry Watkins or others, which merit our support.

I am asking you to help us with as large a tax-deductible contribution as you can: \$20, \$30, even \$50 -- or more if possible. With your help we can feel comfortable when Division 44 chooses to support issues of importance in the gay and lesbian world on your behalf.

Please make checks out to SPSLGI. Mail them to Terry Gock, Treasurer, 2550 West Main St., Suite 201, Alhambra, CA 91801.

Through your generosity we will be able to maintain a significant lesbian and gay presence within psychology.

With gratitude,



Adrienne J. Smith, Ph.D.
President

Division 44/SPSLGI

A DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

(continued from page 2, *President's Column*)
gayness. I don't guarantee that it will make you gay, that's an individual decision. But I can guarantee that it will make your attendance at APA meetings or participation in any way more lively, and much more enjoyable.

Even if you don't at this time want to become more actively involved in division functions, there are other ways to help. As you will see in a letter enclosed with this newsletter, we are in need of money so that we may continue to reach beyond our own "housekeeping" tasks to contribute other lesbian and gay causes. Please give as much as you can and, if you know other psychologists (even non-psychologists) who are in agreement with the aims of Division 44 give them a copy of the fundraising letter.

Another way, and one of great importance, is through your APA Apportionment Ballot. This ballot, which you will receive about the same time as this newsletter, will determine the composition of the Council of Representatives for the 1991 legislative year. The number of representatives Division 44 has in Council is dependent on how many of the total apportionment votes are given to us. These votes come from YOU. Please, when you receive your apportionment ballot, give all of your ten votes, or as many as you can, to Division 44. And, again, talk to your friends who are members of APA. Many people throw these ballots away, not realizing their importance to our voice in central APA governance. Urge your friends to send their ballots in with ten votes for Division 44. If each of us can get only one of our friends to cast their ten votes for our division we will have two, perhaps even three, representatives to APA council.

Through money and apportionment votes individuals can support the division without "coming out". Because so many of our friends still live in fear of being identified as lesbian or gay it is essential that they know there are ways to be supportive that are still "safe". Appoint yourself as a liaison between Division 44 and your closeted psychologist friends. And, of course, since you don't have to be gay or lesbian to be a member of the division or to be supportive, don't forget your straight friends, too.

Each member of Division 44 is a psychologist who is identified with lesbian and gay issues. We are ambassadors and role models, carrying a message about our profession and our identity. Lets make that message one of pride and empowerment.

LIAISON TO CWP ESTABLISHED

In August, at the APA Convention in New Orleans, Division 44's Executive Committee created the post of liaison to the Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP). The following is the initial report of SPSLGI's first CWP liaison, Martha Pearce, Ph.D.

CWP's major purpose is to further the purpose of APA, i.e. to advance psychology as a science and as a means of promoting human welfare by ensuring that women achieve equality as members of the psychological community, in order that all human resources be fully actualized.

Thus, by implication and stated purpose, lesbians are included in the overall purpose of CWP, and are designated as a special population along with ethnic minority women and older women. In addition, however, CWP has focused specifically on several issues relevant to lesbian and gay concerns. For the past two years CWP and the Committee of Lesbian and Gay Concerns (CLGC) have been collaborating on developing an agenda of lesbian issues in psychology, along with strategies for addressing them.

These issues are:

- 1) to develop a packet of materials to support curriculum development on lesbian and gay issues for psychology training programs.
- 2) to examine the accreditation process and develop recommendations for higher expectations for knowledge of lesbian/gay issues and competency to work with lesbian and gay clients.
- 3) to identify funding sources for holding a research conference on lesbian and gay issues.
- 4) to develop a pamphlet and a continuing education workshop on child custody issues.
- 5) to initiate a collaborative effort with the Division of Sports Psychology on the issue of homophobia in sports.

In addition, CWP continues to include lesbian concerns throughout its agenda.

If you have questions and/or concerns you wish to address to Dr. Pearce vis a vis CWP, she can be reached at:

Martha Pearce, Ph.D.
425 S. Cherry St.
Suite 350
Denver, Colorado 80222
(303) 377-1188

(continued from page 7, *APA Report*)

This research is vital to the AIDS effort because the last major study of sexual practices was done by Alfred Kinsey in the early 40's. Despite the survey bias and outdated nature of this information, this earlier study is the basis for AIDS-related epidemiological projections. There is a great need to have newer and more reliable data on which to base a variety of important health policy decisions.

Such a survey was generated and had received funding. In a surprise move, Congressman Natcher, Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee with jurisdiction over the Department of Health and Human Services, defunded the survey from the FY 1990 budget. The report accompanying the bill stated: *"The Committee has deleted \$11,050,000 that was requested for a large-scale national survey of sexual behavior. This does not appear to be an appropriate use of public funds; if such a survey is necessary, it should be supported with non-governmental funds. The Public Health Service is directed not to proceed with this study."*

In light of this setback, efforts are underway to restore funding for the project in the Senate. Currently we are working to achieve a number of goals. A sign-on letter originated by APA has been sent over the signature of some 40 organizations to Secretary Sullivan. A letter to all members of the House is being generated at APA. We are asking members of the House to sign-on to an open letter to Secretary Sullivan as well. We have just orchestrated a briefing by NICHD for over 30 national professional and advocacy groups and are preparing a similar kind of briefing for Hill staff through the Women's Congressional Caucus. Finally we have facilitated the creation of a press coalition to generate some favorable press stories and editorials on the subject. We are now turning our attention to Congressional lobbying.

Family Planning. Research has shown that over 3 million pregnancies each year are unintended--approximately half of all pregnancies. Title X of the Public Health Service Act is the only federal program targeted specifically to the provision of family planning services. The program provides contraceptive information and services and related health services to approximately 3.5 million low income women and 1.5 million adolescents every year. Despite the important role the program plays in providing reproductive health services to women who might otherwise have limited access to such services, the Title X program has not been formally

reauthorized since 1985, and as a result, funding for the program has been seriously eroded.

Both the House and the Senate have introduced bills, H.R. 930 and S.110, to reauthorize the Title X Program. Conservative groups and lawmakers who are strongly anti-abortion continue to oppose reauthorization of the Title X Program on the grounds that federally funded family planning clinics are encouraging abortion by providing information about abortion as an option to deal with a problem pregnancy. Action in the Senate is expected sometime in the next few months. The House is expected to act after passage by the Senate.

Abortion. Continuing its long-standing involvement and leadership in abortion-related matters, the APA filed an amicus brief in the recent Supreme Court case "Webster v. Reproductive Health Services", which was decided July 3, 1989. The Webster Brief discussed the research on the psychological consequences of abortion, and found that while studies on the psychological effects of abortion were inconclusive, the majority of descriptive studies found that very few women who have had abortions experience severe psychological reactions. In general, most women studied reported relief following an abortion and when negative feelings were experienced, they were usually mild and short-lived.

Currently, APA is preparing to file an amicus brief in the "Hodgson" and "Akron" cases currently awaiting a hearing in the Supreme Court. At issue in both cases is the state's right to regulate a minor's access to abortion which hinges in large part on judgements about a minor's competence to make the abortion decision. Previous Court decisions have supported state regulation of minor's access to abortion in ways that would be unconstitutional if applied to adult women.

The APA brief will present research findings related to adolescents' competence to make health care decisions, and the effects of mandated parental notification and consent on adolescents who live in dysfunctional or violent families. The brief will also present research findings relevant to the assumption that adolescents are especially vulnerable to serious psychological harm as a result of having an abortion.

AIDS and Behavioral Research. APA continues to be the major proponent of behavioral and social science research in the AIDS arena. Specifically we have coordinated the development of

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(continued from page 15, *APA Report*)

recommendations for the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration regarding AIDS and have participated in the setting of priorities for AIDS for the Center for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health and Health Resources and Services Administration. We continue to monitor the impact of these efforts on the Congressional Appropriations process, having testified on these issues before both the House and Senate and having prepared report language for the Committees to consider in drafting their reports.

In coordinating the statement on AIDS appropriations for the Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG) FY 1990 appropriations, APA argued that while ADAMHA has not been viewed in the past as central to the government's war against the AIDS epidemic, ADAMHA must expand its role in research and service activities related to the epidemic. Researching effective prevention strategies, designing innovative outreach to street drug users, demonstrating model treatment services for IVDUs, and demonstrating model mental health services for HIV infected persons reflect the variety of activities which fall under ADAMHA's responsibility in AIDS. APA has urged ADAMHA to expand its role in research on the neurological aspects of HIV infection as well as the area of prevention and behavior change. Research on targeted groups difficult to reach with prevention messages needs to be expanded.

Finally, APA has identified as a priority NIMH's role in service delivery, arguing for an increase over the President's budget request in order to allow NIMH to demonstrate mental health treatment services for persons with HIV infections authorized in P.L. 100-607. In addition, APA encouraged NIMH to maintain or expand its innovative training programs focused on the psychosocial and neurological aspects of the AIDS epidemic.

SPSGI MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Christine Browning, SPSGI's Membership Chair reported the following membership update to the division's Executive Committee in August at APA's Convention in New Orleans.

SPSGI currently has 874 members [Women--416 (48%); Men--458 (52%)]. The division has consistently grown from its inception in 1986 (709 members) to the present.

(continued from page 11, *Committee Reports*) '88, and Vienna '89. I am Chair of the Working Group on UN/Non-Governmental Organization Status. This committee's goal is for ILGA to become an officially designated non-governmental organization (NGO) within the United Nations structure, specifically through the Economic and Social Council. I believe that it is critical to have an openly lesbian/gay presence within the United Nations to deal with homophobia on an international level. I am committed to this process for it is essential that we have a voice within the UN and develop a supportive network with the other NGO's.

As a psychologist, I can speak from a scientifically valid perspective and an ethical system which is consistent with the APA's. Reports within the UN are being written on homosexuality which the APA would find non-scientific and/or antiquated. It is essential that a conduit be established that can bring to the United Nations the best of our thinking and research and help in the eradication of homophobia.

The actual process of becoming an NGO is a long one and entails a detailed application and much public relations work with the international representatives who will vote. I have started the application process and am working with our contacts throughout the world who can speak to their country's representative.

Division 44 members can be of help by writing to APA urging it to support this process of becoming an NGO. Letters can be sent to APA staff member Clinton Anderson of BSERP and Joan Buchanan of the Committee on International Relations in Psychology (CIRP). If any Division 44 members know influential people in the UN or NGO structure, let me know. The success of this project depends entirely upon the informal network of garnering support of those who have influence.

I am also liaison to CIRP and my first meeting was in New Orleans. I have just begun developing communications with the committee and have apprised them of the ILGA UN/NGO project. My purpose as liaison is to: 1) make them aware of the relevancy of lesbian/gay issues to their goals; 2) apprise Division 44 of their activities; 3) assist in coordinating any activities that are of mutual concern.

I hope that gives you an idea of my work. If you have further questions or wish to participate, contact me at: *Harold Kooden; 853 Broadway; Suite 1910; New York, NY 10003; (212) 473-8266.*

(continued from page 6, *Lesbian Families*)
adopt as an openly gay couple? How far is the couple willing to go in denying their homosexuality to the agencies involved? The laws in each state are different and need to be looked into before proceeding.

Susan and I felt we wanted to have two children. We then made the remarkable decision that we would both become pregnant at the same time and have two children the same age. Though we had lots of understandable reasons for wanting to do it this way, such as our advancing ages, I see now that the strongest motivation was to counteract our insecurities about being a lesbian family. Having no models of how to coparent a child who was related to only one of us biologically, we were afraid of one of us feeling left out. We felt that by having babies at the same time, we could insure that we would always feel equally and equivalently parental toward both children. In addition, we felt it increased the likelihood that the society around us would recognize our status as the parents of both children.

In 1981 we gave birth to a son, Michael, and a daughter, Emily. Briefly, we delighted in our two babies until tragedy struck and Michael died at four and a half months old of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. We went through major upheaval as a family trying to grieve and parent at the same time, and lacking many of the supports of heterosexual families. In addition, though I started trying to get pregnant again shortly after Michael's death, I was infertile for two years. Finally, In 1984 we were blessed with the birth of another son, Jesse. If I sum up the whole experience, I think it's fair to say that I learned more than I ever imagined about both joy and stress.

I'd like to step back for a moment now and use a wide angle lens to look at some of the implications for psychology, and perhaps for society, of the (possibly) tens of thousands of new gay families. What I am mainly going to suggest here, is that the new families represent a gold mine of data for psychological research.

For as long as psychologists and psychoanalysts and educators and sociologists have been studying children and families they have been making certain assumptions. One of these is that it is normal and optimal for a child to have two parents, one of each gender. It has been presumed that a child's sense of gender identity, and ability to feel secure in the world, and general psychological well-being was best insured by a Mommy-and-Daddy household.

Studies of deviations from this structure, as in studies of divorced families or single parent families, have attempted to assess the damage done by the deviation. The question is asked, how do children do when they are reared without a father or mother? The children being studied have often experienced the profound trauma of the loss of a father through divorce or death, so they cannot reasonably be compared to kids in a Mommy-Daddy family who have not had such a loss. Or, the children studied may have been raised from birth by a single mother, in which case they haven't had the traumatic loss of a parent, but they also haven't had the dynamics of a two-parent family. Again, they can't really be compared with kids in Mommy-Daddy families.

In recent years there have been attempts to study children reared in lesbian families, and make comparisons with heterosexual nuclear families or with single parent families. The problem here is that until recently, the only lesbian families available in large enough numbers to study were families created through heterosexual marriage and divorce, often with resulting bitterness and loss and suffering. Also, these children were in general well past the early infancy months and first years which are so crucial to development.

Now, however, there exists the possibility of studying children born to a two-parent household, raised from birth with two loving parents in an intact family, where the parents are both of one gender. Neither the child nor the mothers have experienced the loss or disappointment of someone who "should" have been there.

This unique situation allows us to begin to ask questions we weren't able to ask before. For example, if children in heterosexual families show regular patterns of attachment first to mother, then later to father, which are supposed to then lead to identification with one of them, what happens when they are reared in gay families? Do they use two Moms the same way they would use a Mom and a Dad, and with those two Moms act out issues of jealousy, competition, identification, sexuality, and so on? Or is it truly necessary that one of the members of the triangle be male in order for these issues to be played out, and if so, do the kids find men outside the family with whom to enact Oedipal dramas? Do they, in fact, enact Oedipal dramas at all? and if not, do they fail to develop normally? or could it be that much of what has been theorized as critical to

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(continued from page 16, *Lesbian Families*)
healthy development has been merely an artifact of there having been coincidentally one parent of each gender in the families studied? Is it possible that we may have data to offer which may contradict some of psychoanalysis' cherished beliefs about identity formation, sexual identity, and sexual preference? Is it possible that many of our theories of child-rearing have made assumptions about development that will have to be revised based on studies of the new gay family?

Another set of questions worth asking of our new sector of society revolves around: In what ways do same gender parents provide experience for their children? It is traditionally assumed that fathers do certain kinds of activities with their children and mothers do different things. To what degree is the relative androgyny of the gay parents involved a factor in the tenor of the household? What seems to happen to the kids in response? If kids are offered a wide range of experience, from lullabies to karate, by two same-gender parents, does the child become confused, as psychoanalysis might predict, about what typical gender role behavior she or he should adopt? Or does the child develop a broad and flexible range of behavior encompassing typically male and female roles, as feminist theory might predict? Or, does the child's tendency to develop as typically male or typically female or as androgynous seem to have no relation to the gender role behaviors of the parents, which favors a more biologically based theory?

Another important avenue for research is: what is the impact on the child of growing up socially different--in a lesbian or gay family--when there has never been the trauma of divorce or separation or loss of a parent? Unlike most of the studies of gay families. How may the sense of positive differentness promote maturity? What sorts of creative solutions do these kids find for interfacing with an uninformed and often very surprised society? How important is the parents' ability to celebrate their own differentness? How important is the individual temperament or personality of the child in being able to enjoy differentness as opposed to having it be a source of shame or discomfort?

It is also important that we do research which is not particularly aimed at comparisons with heterosexual life. It is important as well that we ask the questions which will help enrich our knowledge of the nature and needs of our own community. For example, what is the impact on the lesbian or gay

deal with straight society? Do we tend to integrate with heterosexual society more when we have children? If so, do we get a sense of strength from emerging from this gay ghetto? Or does it merely add a measure of stress and anxiety to have to interface with schools, babysitters, physicians, and so on? Do we get the support we need from the gay community? Or do we end up feeling alienated from both worlds? What factors in the parents, such as their relative comfort and openness with their own homosexuality, predict whether they will feel more enriched or more overwhelmed?

What are the rates of stress-related problems among gay and lesbian families? For example, do the stresses of societal and familial and internalized homophobia make it harder for gay families to stay together? Is it harder for gay families to get the help they need from agencies, from family, from friends, from community? What happens when there are divorces? How are we solving the problems created by custody and visitation issues?

Another question we have to ask of our community is how is it responding to the new presence of children? Gays and lesbians who do not have children often have very strong feelings about being around them, both positive and negative. There are bound to be conflicts between the needs of children or parents, and the needs of child-free adults. How is that conflict being felt?

... on the whole, it has been working out very well for us. Our children have both acquired a pretty sophisticated understanding of what it means to be gay, and a more or less compassionate view of those heterosexuals who don't seem to understand. They have followed our lead in explaining to people patiently that they have two Mommies because that's just the kind of family we are. They handle people's surprise fairly gracefully.

We have been quite well accepted in our community. Susan is now the President of the school Parent Teachers Association--which may be the first time an open lesbian has been the head of a New York City school PTA. Our children are popular with other kids, and seem to get invited to all the birthday parties and play dates in their circles of friends. We are sure, of course, that there are heterosexual parents out there who feel mistrustful or uncomfortable with us, but they have been polite enough to keep those feelings to themselves. And we have been able to find enough genuine warmth and acceptance to feel nourished.

DUTCH PSYCHOLOGIST ATTENDS SPSLGI CONVENTION PROGRAMS

Last August I had the chance to attend the APA Convention in New Orleans. My name is Jan Schippers, I am a clinical psychologist and I work for the Schorerfoundation, the Dutch gay and lesbian mental health agency. For over twenty years now the Schorerfoundation has offered a broad range of services for the lesbian and gay community in Holland, including psychotherapy and counseling. Also we have become very much involved with the development of the theoretical and practical/methodological aspects of gay and lesbian psychology.

One of the reasons I went to the New Orleans Convention was to study the way gay and lesbian psychologists are organized in the USA. Most of you will be aware of the fact that the different countries of the European Community are slowly (and often hesitantly) developing into a United States of Europe. Exciting as these developments may be, there is also the danger that homophobic norms and legislation that can still be found in some European countries will be forced on countries that are relatively tolerant and gay-affirmative. As a gay psychologist I feel that now is the time to start an organization in Europe that is similar to ALGP or Division 44.

There are many lesbian and gay psychologists in Western Europe, but most of us find it difficult to integrate our professional and sexual identities in a positive way. Even fewer men and women in our profession have the chance to devote a sizeable portion of their time to gay and lesbian issues. Both as a way of supporting each other and as a way of promoting the development of lesbian and gay psychology, international cooperation and networking are becoming a necessity.

I was very impressed indeed by the way you have organized yourselves and I have learned a lot about the problems and possibilities we will be facing in setting up a European organization. (Just think of all the different languages and cultures!) I was also confronted with the fact that the information flow between Europe and the US tends to be, as far as lesbian and gay psychology is concerned, a little out of balance. Of course the language-barrier plays an important role here, but some ethnocentrism also seems to be part of the problem. We in Europe need

your support, both scientifically as well as mentally, but I'm convinced that you could also benefit from what has been developed on this side of the ocean.

With this letter I'd like to thank all the colleagues from ALGP and Division 44 who helped make my stay in New Orleans both worthwhile and enjoyable. I sincerely hope that in the coming years international cooperation and the exchange of information will become important issues to all those who are interested in the development of lesbian and gay psychologists.

Interested parties can get in touch with me by writing:

*Dr. Jan Schippers
c/o Schorerfoundation
Nieuwendijk 17
1012 LZ Amsterdam*

ED TASK FORCE NEEDS HELP

If you are a member or affiliate of Division 44 and are interested in issues of psychology education and training, SPSLGI's Task Force on Education and Training encourages you to let your interest be known. We are seeking new members. Early in our development, the TF surveyed a number of other APA divisions to get a sense of the types of projects that they were pursuing. Currently, (and for at least the next year) the primary focus of the TF has been to ensure that Division 44's interests are represented during the period when APA is in the process of revising its "scope and criteria for accreditation." Further into the future, the TF would like to examine the undergraduate curricula as well.

Although new TF members who work in university settings would be welcomed, we are particularly interested in representatives from veteran administrations; college mental health centers; research projects/agencies; and hospital settings.

Any individuals interested in working for the Task Force on Education and Training can contact Leah Fygetakis, TF Chair, at: *Martin Luther King, Jr. Center; Boston University; 19 Deerfield St.; Boston, MA 02215; (617) 353-3540*

New Orleans Gay and Lesbian Community Development

by Richard T. Devlin

The following article was prepared from a Division 44 sponsored symposium at APA's 1989 Convention in New Orleans entitled: *Regionality of Gay and Lesbian Communities: Strategies from the South*. The comments are taken from the presentation of Richard T. Devlin, long time New Orleans gay activist, whose paper was entitled: *Organizations and Community: The Impossible Dream?*

While the Mattachine Society and Daughters of Bilitis were still fledgling organizations on the East and West Coasts in the early 1960's, the first formally organized group for homosexuals was created here in New Orleans. It was a uniquely New Orleans group. In 1963, the Krewe of Petronius, a Mardi Gras organization for gay men was formed in what was, as far as I have been able to determine, the first time that homosexuals gathered in an organized fashion in Louisiana. The organization's purpose--to produce a tableau, a presentation of costumes--would no doubt seem foreign to those unfortunates in the rest of our country who do not enjoy the excesses of carnival. Other carnival organizations followed, with the first krewe that included lesbians being formed in 1965.

It wasn't until later--much later-- that organizations developed with purposes that included attaining equal rights and gaining self-awareness and empowerment. While that's not so different from the scenario in other Southern cities, it does seem a little out of sync since New Orleans has always had a lively and visible gay population. One possible explanation for the delay is that there has always been a perception of tolerance for gay people here. New Orleans' reputation as a cosmopolitan, laid-back cultural center lulled lesbians and gay men into the belief that there was little discrimination here, therefore no urgent need for activism. Only the periodic pre-election raids on gay and lesbian bars shook that belief and then only momentarily.

Reality began to set in during the summer of 1973, when a tragic fire at the Upstairs Bar (a popular gay gathering place) took the lives of dozens of lesbians and gay men, many of them

members of the recently established New Orleans Metropolitan Community Church. The lack of compassion shown by city officials and the slowness in investigating the causes of the fire, drove home the fact to some in the gay community that they were indeed second-class citizens. But still no formal organizations were formed.

In 1979, before Anita Bryant was to come to New Orleans for one of her gay-bashing appearances, a small group of neophyte activists created a group called HERE, Human Equal Rights for Everyone. And during a two-month period this group organized a protest that resulted in nearly 500 lesbians and gay men marching to affirm their human dignity. Following that march, HERE withered and died, in a pattern followed by many organizations formed subsequently. Frequently, organizations have been created in reaction to specific challenges or events. Once those challenges or events have run their course, the organizations, because of a lack of long-range planning, a lack of trained leaders, a lack of community support, have also run their course.

Also in 1979, the first gay pride celebration, Gay Fest, was mounted. Since that time, it has changed its name to Gay Pride, and the group has staged an annual gay pride event in New Orleans. With the exception of five of the gay carnival organizations, Gay Pride is the oldest gay organization in the city.

In the summer of 1980, LAGPAC, the Louisiana Gay Political Action Caucus, was formed to work within the political system to extend equal rights to lesbians and gay men. And that fall, LAGPAC sponsored the first statewide Gay and Lesbian Conference, held in a Baton Rouge gay bar. Two years later, that conference separated from LAGPAC and became Celebration, a group that has produced the annual Louisiana Gay and Lesbian Conference, a weekend-long event composed of entertainment, workshops, dances, and speeches by nationally known leaders of the gay and lesbian community.

Other organizations were also created during this period: GLAD, Gays and Lesbians Against Discrimination; Crescent City Coalition, a civil

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rights group; and Lavender Left, a socialist oriented group. Their existence was short-lived however. Like most gay organizations, they struggled to recruit membership and scraped for financial support. Three exceptions were the New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus; Lambda Center, a lesbian and gay Alcoholics Anonymous group; and the local chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

LAGPAC led a coalition of community groups in pressing for an equal rights ordinance in New Orleans on two occasions. Both attempts failed, but they initiated the process of communication between diverse organizations throughout the community.

During this period people involved in gay organizations were frequently at odds with those who belonged to carnival organizations, and there was little crossover. Activists were offended by the social nature of the krewes and krewe members were offended by the growing politicization of the activists. One comment frequently heard from activists was that if you gave a New Orleanian the choice between freedom and feathers, he would choose feathers every time. Activists couldn't understand how krewe members could spend thousands of dollars producing Mardi Gras extravaganzas while civil rights groups scraped by on pennies.

That all began to change when New Orleanians began to die of AIDS. In 1983, NO/AIDS Task Force was organized to provide services to those affected by AIDS and to provide education to the community at large. Since NO/AIDS, a veritable alphabet soup of AIDS-related organizations has been formed: Project Lazarus, Community Relief for People with AIDS, New Orleans Women Against AIDS, New Orleans AIDS Project, and Pediatric AIDS Project to name a few. And while most of the organizations are not exclusively homosexual in make-up, all are strongly influenced by lesbians and gay men who have taken the lead in providing the compassionate services so desperately needed in this crisis.

During this crisis, unique partnerships have been formed in the AIDS arena, bringing traditionally heterosexual organizations into intimate contact with homosexual organizations. NO/AIDS, LAGPAC, and the ACLU created the Sexual Privacy Project, which litigates equal protection cases. The Catholic Church and the gay community cooperate in

supporting Project Lazarus, a residential facility for people with AIDS. Such diverse establishment groups as Planned Parenthood, city and state governmental departments, Associated Catholic Charities and university medical and research centers work closely with the gay community in addressing the myriad of legal, medical, and social issues confronting the entire community.

Locally there are two areas where the lack of organization is noteworthy. The first is organization among lesbians. During the period in the 1970's while lesbians in other major urban areas were beginning to get together to organize and share their experiences, there seems to have been a lack of such activity here in Louisiana. Some would offer the explanation that organizations here have generally welcomed the participation of women. I don't buy into that personally because most of our organizations, while accepting of lesbian participation, have been dominated by gay men who suffer from the same culturally rooted concept of male supremacy as their heterosexual counterparts. However, I can offer no alternative explanation. Only in the recent past have such groups as New Orleans Women Against AIDS, Sappho's Circle, Women in Harmony, and the New Orleans Women's Music Collective been established. The second deficit area is that of organizations of or for lesbian and gay youth. In this we're no different than any other community, small or large. But this is an area which must be addressed if lesbians and gay men are ever to achieve equal rights. If we continue to allow our internalized homophobia to prevent us from working with lesbian and gay youth, our future generations will arrive on the scene burdened with a profound lack of self-worth.

As practitioners in a helping profession who frequently come in contact with lesbians and gay men, you are uniquely positioned to take a leading role in insuring that the organizational progress made during the AIDS crisis continues when at last it is over. In treating adult clients, you can help eliminate the fears of dealing with our youth. In treating young clients, you can help establish those feelings of self-esteem that will encourage them to become involved with their community in a positive way. In doing that you will help create future generations of leaders--stalwarts who will ultimately achieve human dignity for lesbians and gay men.